

# **EXHIBIT A**

SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING

XAVIER ORTIZ,

Plaintiff,

vs.

E&E FOODS AND F/V BEAGLE, LLC,

Defendants.

Case No.

**SEAMAN'S COMPLAINT FOR  
PERSONAL INJURY, WAGES,  
MAINTENANCE AND CURE**

COMES NOW the plaintiff and complains of the defendants alleging upon information and belief as follows:

1. Plaintiff, Xavier Ortiz Fuentes, brings and maintains this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1333; 46 U.S.C. §§ 30103 and 30104; the general maritime law; the Washington Minimum Wage Act, RCW Chap. 49.46; and/or the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et. seq.

2. The defendants do business and/or have principal places of business in King County, south of Interstate 90, State of Washington.

3. Defendants herein, E& E Foods and F/V Beagle, LLC, are corporations existing under and by virtue of the laws of a state or states unknown to plaintiff and at all times herein

SEAMAN'S COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES FOR PERSONAL INJURIES,  
WAGES, CLAIM FOR MAINTENANCE AND CURE - 1  
CASE NO.

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1 mentioned were acting by and through their officers, agents, servants, employees and  
2 representatives, and have principal places of business or are doing business in the State of  
3 Washington.

4 4. The M/V Cape Grieg is a fishing vessel documented by the United States, official  
5 number 654947. During all times herein mentioned said vessel was owned or bareboat chartered  
6 by the defendants and was engaged in maritime commerce.

7 5. At all times herein mentioned, plaintiff was employed by the defendants as a  
8 member of the crew, in the service of said vessel and was at all times acting within the course  
9 and scope of his duties as a fish processor in furtherance of the mission of said vessel.

10  
11 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION: CLAIM FOR INJURY**

12 6. During mid-July 2019 while said vessel was in navigable waters, plaintiff felt  
13 pressure in his head. The defendants failed to give him adequate medical attention at sea and  
14 initially refused to allow him to seek medical attention on shore.

15 7. Said injuries, disabilities, and damages were directly and proximately caused by  
16 the unseaworthiness of the vessel; the negligence, in whole or in part, of the defendants and their  
17 agents, servants and employees; and the failure of the defendants to provide a reasonably safe  
18 place to work, in one or more of the following respects: Poor working conditions; failure to  
19 provide or facilitate timely and adequate medical attention.

20 8. Plaintiff was finally allowed to seek medical attention on shore at Pilot Point, AK  
21 on July 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> 2019. There was no medical doctor at the Pilot Point clinic. Plaintiff  
22 requested to see a real doctor. The defendants would not allow him to leave the vessel for  
23 medical attention unless he signed a paper stating that he “quit” the vessel. The plaintiff flew

1 home to California from Alaska at the end of July. The cost of airfare was deducted from his  
2 wages.

3 9. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, plaintiff was caused to and did  
4 incur reasonable charges for medical care and attention. Plaintiff does not know the reasonable  
5 value of said medical care and attention already rendered or to be rendered in the future and,  
6 therefore, prays leave to amend this complaint to show the same.

7 10. As a further result of the foregoing, plaintiff was rendered unable to engage in his  
8 normal and usual occupation for a period of time. Plaintiff may later be unable to engage in his  
9 normal and usual occupation and prays leave to amend this complaint to allege the full extent of  
10 said loss when the same is ascertained.

11 11. Plaintiff demands maintenance from the defendants in a per diem amount to  
12 recuperate on land with room and board at least equal to that received on defendant's vessel, until  
13 the plaintiff reaches maximum cure or until the plaintiff is declared fit for duty, whichever last  
14 occurs. Plaintiff further demands the actual cost of cure until fully cured, and if never cured,  
15 plaintiff demands the cost of cure for the remainder of plaintiff's natural life.

16 12. Plaintiff is entitled to compensatory and consequential damages – including a  
17 contingent attorney fee – for the negligent failure to pay maintenance and cure. Plaintiff is  
18 entitled to reasonable attorney fees for the arbitrary and capricious failure to pay maintenance  
19 and cure. Plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages for the willful and wanton failure to pay  
20 maintenance and cure.

21 13. Plaintiff is entitled to unearned wages (including bonuses and overtime) from the  
22 day he left the vessel in late July 2019 to the end of the season. Said wages have been demanded  
23

1 and denied. Plaintiff is entitled to double wages under state law and/or punitive damages under  
2 federal law.

3 14. Eighty-nine (89) days following the filing of this action, plaintiff waives the  
4 physician-patient privilege, under protest, and only on condition that the Court holds that a  
5 waiver is required in this case. This waiver is made pursuant to RCW 5.60.060(4)(b), as  
6 amended by Chapter 305, Laws of 1986; as limited by the civil discovery rules. Specifically,  
7 plaintiff authorizes no ex parte contacts or inquiry to medical personnel regarding matters not  
8 reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. This waiver is made  
9 subject to plaintiff's challenge to the constitutionality of RCW 5.60.060(4)(b) on privacy  
10 grounds, and the applicability of said statute to federal causes of action.

11  
12 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION: CLAIM FOR MINIMUM AND OVERTIME**

13 **WAGES**

14 15. Plaintiff worked the 2019 summer salmon seasons in Alaska aboard the M/V  
15 Cape Grieg. Defendants adopted a policy of 'no fish, no pay' whereby the processors, including  
16 plaintiff, were not paid when there was no fish to process. Plaintiff and other processors were on  
17 call 16 hours per day, 7 days per week, waiting to work on short notice, whenever fish was  
18 delivered by catcher boats. Defendants engaged plaintiff to wait for these fish deliveries and  
19 then to process the fish when they were delivered.

20 16. The failure to pay plaintiff minimum and overtime wages during standby time,  
21 when plaintiff was required to wait on the vessel for fish deliveries, constituted violations of the  
22 Washington Minimum Wage Act, RCW Chap. 49.46, and/or the Fair Labor Standards Act 29  
23 U.S.C. § 201 et. seq.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays judgment against the defendants as follows:

1. For general damages, including damages for loss of consortium, as are reasonable and fair;
2. For such special damages, including found, as may be shown by the proofs herein;
3. For maintenance and cure, and for consequential and punitive damages for failure to pay same;
4. For earned and unearned wages and double wage penalties;
5. For pre-judgment interest on all claims as is in the law provided;
6. For costs of suit and reasonable attorney fees;
7. For such other and further relief, including punitive damages, as is met and just in the circumstances.

Dated this 26<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020

PATRICK M. PLEAS, WSBA # 25737  
AND JOHN MERRIAM, of Attorneys for Plaintiff;

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